Session 5B: Monitoring our Source Waters and SDWA/CWA Integration

March 19, 2008

Drinking Water Source Protection through Effective Use of the TMDL Processes, Laura J. Blake, The Cadmus Group, Inc.

57 Water Street, Watertown, MA 02472,

Phone: (617) 673-7148, Fax: (617) 673-7348, Email: lblake@cadmusgroup.com

There are many reasons for water utilities to be concerned about the quality of their source water. In terms of public health protection, good source water quality and watershed protection form one of the multiple barriers that work together to provide safe water. From an operations perspective, the better the source water quality, the less time and money a utility has to spend on treatment chemicals, equipment and labor. Improved water quality will generally reduce customer complaints about taste and odor. Finally, compliance with drinking water regulations is made easier if source water concentrations of *E. coli*, *Cryptosporidium*, natural organic matter, nitrate, pesticides, metals, and other regulated contaminants are controlled.

At the same time that utilities are becoming increasingly concerned about their source water quality, states are developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for waterbodies identified as not meeting water quality standards for their designated uses. Among these waterbodies are those not meeting the designated use of potable water supply. In principle, it seems that the need for utilities to increase watershed protection is being answered by the development of TMDLs. In practice, however, efforts made by water utilities and those made by watershed regulators are not always in sync. More than ever, it is in the interest of many utilities to get involved in their watershed protection process and engage themselves in the development of TMDLs, so their needs and concerns are accurately and adequately addressed.

As part of a research effort sponsored by the American Water Works Association Research Foundation (AwwaRF), The Cadmus Group, Inc. has been investigating and reporting on successful strategies that have been used by drinking water utilities to protect source waters using the TMDL regulatory process, as well as evaluating and describing specific measures that have been used to include drinking water objectives in TMDLs. The goal of the project is to provide water utilities with information and tools that enable them to better utilize the TMDL process to protect and improve source water.

Notes:			

.